Listing of Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

selecting from an inverted index at least,

a first item associated with a first item entry having a first listing of articles associated with the first item, and

a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a second item entry having a second listing of articles associated with the second item;

determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry; and

compressing the second item entry into the first item entry based at least in part on the determination.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises:

determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry; and

comparing the cost-benefit ratio with an acceptable value to determine if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the item entry further comprises an item value for each article that the item appears in.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the item value is a representation of the strength of the item in the article.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the item value is a representation of whether the item appears in the article.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein a cost for the cost-benefit ratio comprises a representation of the loss in precision that can be caused by compressing the first and second item entries or the additional processing time that can be required when utilizing a compressed entry.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein determining a cost for the cost-benefit ratio comprises determining how much the first item entry and the second item entry have to change when the second item entry is compressed into the first item entry.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein a benefit for the cost-benefit ratio is a representation of the amount of memory saved if the first and second item entries were compressed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the items comprise words, concepts or images.

10 (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the acceptable value is predetermined.

11 (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

selecting from an inverted index at least,

a first item associated with a first item entry having a first listing of articles associated with the first item comprising an item value for each article, and

a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a

second item entry having a second listing of articles associated with the second item comprising

an item value for each article;

determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry by

determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry

and comparing the cost-benefit ratio with an acceptable value to determine if the cost-benefit

ratio is acceptable; and

if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable, compressing the second item entry into the first

item entry based at least in part on the determination.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein determining a cost for the

cost-benefit ratio comprises determining how much the first item entry and the second item entry

have to change when the second item entry is compressed into the first item entry.

13 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein a benefit for the cost-

benefit ratio is a representation of an amount of memory saved if the first and second item entries

were compressed.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the acceptable value is predetermined.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the items comprise words, concepts or

images.

16. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

selecting from an inverted index a plurality of items, each item different from the other selected items and each item having a listing of articles associated with the item;

determining whether to compress the plurality of items; and

compressing the item entries based at least in part on the determination.

17 (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the plurality of item entries comprises three or more item entries.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program code[[,]] comprising:

program code for selecting from an inverted index at least,

a first item associated with a first item entry having a first listing of articles associated with the first item, and

a second item different from the first item, the second item associated with a second item entry having a second listing of articles associated with the second item;

program code for determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry; and

program code for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry based at least in part on the determination.

19 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining whether to compress the second item entry into the first item entry comprises:

program code for determining a cost-benefit ratio for compressing the second item entry into the first item entry; and

program code for comparing the cost-benefit ratio with an acceptable value to determine if the cost-benefit ratio is acceptable.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the item entry further comprises an item value for each article that the item appears in.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the item value is a representation of the strength of the item in the article.

22 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the item value is a representation of whether the item appears in the article.

23 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein a cost for the cost-benefit ratio comprises a representation of the loss in precision that can be caused by compressing the first and second entries or the additional processing time that can be required when utilizing a compressed entry.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein determining a cost for the cost-benefit ratio comprises program code for determining how much a first item entry and a second item entry have to change when the second item entry is compressed into the first item entry.

25. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein a benefit for the cost-benefit ratio is a representation of the amount of memory saved if the first and second item entries were compressed.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the items comprise words, concepts or images.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the acceptable value is predetermined.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program code[[,]] comprising:

program code for selecting from an inverted index a plurality of items, each item different from the other selected items and each item having a listing of articles associated with the item;

program code for determining whether to compress the plurality of items; and

program code for compressing the item entries based at least in part on the determination.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the plurality of item entries comprises three or more item entries.